

SN. 10/621,039

ATTORNEY DOCKET No. FUJI:261

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 remain pending in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration.

Amendment

Allowable claim 2 has been placed in independent form to place claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 in condition for allowance. Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to emphasize that the track ID is magnetically recorded. No new matter has been introduced.

Allowable Claims

Claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 were indicated to be allowable if they are placed in independent form. As claim 2 has been placed in independent form, these claims are in condition for allowance.

Art Rejection

Claims 1, 4, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Thomas (USP 6,324,026). Applicants traverse this rejection because Thomas's does not disclose or teach a magnetically recorded track ID, as set forth in claims 1 and 7.

Claims 1 and 7 call for a magnetically recorded track ID that is not erasable with a magnetic recording head used for writing contents data to the magnetic recording medium, but is readable with that magnetic recording head. Thomas discloses providing indelible marks 14 formed of apertures formed through the magnetic layer. In Thomas, no magnetically readable information can be written in the areas of the apertures. In contrast, the present invention calls for a track ID that is written in the magnetic layer.

In addition, claims 1 and 7 call for a track ID in each of the recording tracks, whereas Thomas calls for placing indelible marks 14 randomly.

Based on these distinctions, applicants submit that claims 1 and 7 patentably distinguish over Thomas within the meaning of § 102 and § 103.

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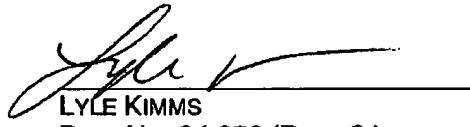
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Conclusion

Applicants submit that claims 1-7 are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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18 MAY 2005

DATE

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REG. NO. 34,079 (RULE 34, WHERE APPLICABLE)

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